Opening of branches of nationalised banks

2907. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of branches of nationalised banks opened so far; and

(b) what is the number of branches of these banks proposed to be opened during the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Public Sector Banks had 34946 branches as on 30th June, 1985.

(b) The branch licensing policy for 1985—90 recently finalised by RBI envisages a coverage of one bank office for 17,000 population in each block in the semi-urban and rural areas of the country and elimination of large spatial gaps in location of bank offices. Opening of additional branches of banks would be in accordance with this policy and no quantitative target has been fixed regarding the number of bank offices to be opened during the remaining period of the current financial year.

हिन्दुस्तान कापर लिमिटेड द्वारा एक रज्जु मार्ग का निर्माण

2908. **श्री अश्विनी कुमार :**

श्री श्रीधर वासुदेव धाबे :

क्या **इस्पात और खान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान कापर लिमिटेड ने खेमा से कोलिहाम तक एक रज्जु मार्ग काफी धन लगाकर बनाया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि माल ट्रकों से ही ढुलवाया जा रहा है जिससे इस रज्जू मार्ग का उपयोग कम होता है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और रज्जु मार्ग क पूर्ण क्षमता को उपयोग में लाने के लिये क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

खान विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रामदुलारी सिन्हा) : (क) कोलिहाम से तांबा अयस्क की ढुलाई के लिये लगभग 7.5 कि० मीटर लम्बा दोहरे तार वाला रज्जु मार्ग हिन्दुस्तान कापर लि० ने दिसम्बर, 1973 में 160 लाख रु० की कुल लागत से स्थापित किया था । 31–3–85 को इस संस्थापन का अवलिखित मूल्य केवल 28,000 रु० है ।

(ख) और (ग) इस रज्जु मार्ग की डिजाइन क्षमता दो पारी चलाने पर 200 मी० टन प्रति घंटा है तथा तीन पारी चलाने पर इसकी ढुलाई क्षमता अन्ततः 2400 मी० टन प्रतिदिन हो जाने की संभावना है । ताम्बा अयस्क की कोलिहाम तांबा खान से उत्पादित समूचा मात्रा तथा चान्दमारी खान से उत्पादित आंशिक मात्रा की हवाई रज्जु मार्ग से ढुलाई की जाती है, और यह मार्ग अपनी अधिकतम क्षमता पर चल रहा है । चान्दमारी से उत्पादित अयस्क की शेष मात्रा की ढुलाई सड़क द्वारा की जाती है । यह खान हवाई रज्जु मार्ग बनने के बाद अस्तित्व में आई है ।

Import of cotton from Pakistan

2909. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Punjab complained about the fall of cotton prices and import of cotton from Pakistan affecting the price level in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many cotton bales have imported from Pakistan during the

year 1983-84. 1984-85 and till 31st October, 1985; and

(d) at what price the cotton is imported from Pakistan and for what purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) A letter has been received from the Government of Punjab regarding fall in the cotton prices and suggesting, *inter-alia*, stoppage of import of cotton from Pakistan.

(c) and (d) During 1983-84 cotton season, there was no import of cotton. However, during the 1984-85 season a quantity of 75,000 bales of medium staple cotton, was contracted for import from Pakistan at a price of 41.90 US cents per pound FOB Karachi, to meet the shortage in the availibility of this variety of cotton for domestic consumption. No further import of cotton is envisaged at present.

Irregularities committed by a Hong-Kong based Indian firm under OGL scheme

2910. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports which appeared in the 'Blitz' of the 23rd November, 1985 to the effect that unabashed looting under Government's blessed OGL scheme continues despite official efforts to stem the rot;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one Prakash Anand (a fictitious name) and one Bhagwandas Master of M/s. Super Trading Co., Bombay, based in Hong-Kong have swindled India to the tune of Rs. 5 crores between July-December, 1984;

(c) if so. whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken against the firm on the basis of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Enforcement Directorate have carried out Searches of the premises of M/s. Super Trading Corporation, Bombay and other connected parties on information received by them. Some incriminating documents, including invoices, signed by one Shri N. B. Master and drawn on Super Trading Corporation, Bombay were taken over during the investigation. Investigations have revealed that M/s Super Trading Corporation, Bombay have transferred to M/s. Overseas Trading Co.. Hongkong foreign exchange amounting to about Rs. 81.23 lakhs during November-December, 1984 as cost of import of chick peas under OGL, but actually no such goods had been imported.

(c) and (d) Enquiries have been conducted by the Enforcement Directorate. An amount of Rs. 1,40,429.65 lying in the account of M|s. Super Trading Corporation in a bank at Bombay has been blocked and adjudication proceedings have been commenced against M/s. Super Trading Corporation and its proprietor Shri Prakash Anand Khanna.

Smuggling of Indian wheat into Pakistan

2911. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian wheat is being smuggled into Pakistan through Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases which have come to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

(c) what is the quantity of wheat seized; and